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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 051934

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CU, GY, XA

SUBJECT: GOV REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON CUBAN PRESENCE

REF: CARACAS 2265 (NOTAL); GEORGETOWN 394; BRASILIA 1797

1. LUERS-ASENCIO TELECON MARCH 1, GEORGETOWN REFTEL, PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY GUYANESE OFFICIALS, AND YOUR TALKS WITH GOV HAVE HOPEFULLY CLARIFIED SUBJECT OF CUBAN PRESENCE IN GUYANA.
2. AMBASSADOR MAY WISH TO DRAW ON FOLLOWING INFORMATION ON CUBAN PRESENCE IN AFRICA IN HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH FONMIN. ANGOLA HAS BEEN DELIBERATELY EXCLUDED IN VIEW OF EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE THIS ASPECT OF CUBAN IMPERIALISM.

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A. CONGO (BRAZZAVILLE):

MOST CUBAN ACTIVITIES IN THE CONGO ARE APPARENTLY RELATED TO ANGOLA. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT THE CUBANS ARE DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN TRAINING CONGOLESE MILITARY FORCES. THE CONGOLESE PORT OF POINTE NOIRE AND THE AIRPORT OF BRAZZAVILLE HAVE BEEN USED AS TRANSSHIPMENT AND STOPOVER POINTS FOR CUBAN MEN AND MATERIEL DESTINED FOR ANGOLA.

WE HAVE NO RELIABLE FIGURES FOR THE NUMBER OF CUBANS IN THE CONGO, BUT THERE MAY BE SEVERAL HUNDRED PROVIDING LOGISTICAL SUPPORT FOR CUBAN FORCES IN ANGOLA.

THE CONGOLESE GOVERNMENT HAS AN AGREEMENT WHICH PROVIDES FOR CONTINUED CUBAN TRAINING OF CONGOLESE DOCTORS, NURSES, TEACHERS, AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS PLUS OFFERING FUTURE MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

B. EQUATORIAL GUINEA:

AS MANY AS 500 CUBANS HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN EQUATORIAL GUINEA SINCE 1974, CONSIDERABLY LESS THAN HALF OF WHOM APPARENTLY WERE MILITARY PERSONNEL. SOME CUBAN MILITARY OFFICERS HAVE GIVEN PARAMILITARY INSTRUCTION. IN MID-1974 ALL EQUATORIAL GUINEAN MILITARY FORCES ON THE RIO MUNI FRONTIER WERE REPORTED TO HAVE SOVIET OR CUBAN ADVISORS. THE GREAT MAJORITY OF THE CUBANS APPARENTLY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN TEACHING, MEDICAL, AGRICULTURAL, AND PUBLIC WORKS ACTIVITIES, PRINCIPALLY IN THE MAINLAND PORTION OF THE COUNTRY. THE NUMBER OF CUBANS PRESENTLY IN EG IS UNCERTAIN.

C. GUINEA:

THERE ARE PROBABLY SLIGHTLY MORE THAN 300 CUBANS IN THE COUNTRY, ABOUT 75 OF WHOM ARE APPARENTLY MILITARY OR PARAMILITARY ADVISORS. OTHERS ARE ENGAGED IN ROAD AND AIRFIELD CONSTRUCTION. SOME CUBANS WERE PREVIOUSLY ENGAGED IN TRAINING PAIGC GUERRILLAS TO FIGHT IN NEIGHBORING GUINEA-BISSAU, BUT THIS ACTIVITY PRESUMABLY
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HAS CEASED SINCE INDEPENDENCE. IN 1974 A 20-MAN CUBAN MILITARY DETACHMENT REPORTEDLY WAS PROVIDING PERSONAL SECURITY FOR PRESIDENT TOURE.

D. GUINEA-BISSAU:

ABOUT 25 CUBAN MILITARY TRAINING OFFICERS AND 50 ROAD CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERS (POSSIBLY MILITARY) WERE REPORTED IN LATE 1975.

E. SOMALIA:

THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS THAT CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE TRAINING SOMALIS FROM SURROUNDING COUNTRIES IN GUERRILLA WARFARE. CUBANS HAVE ALSO BEEN INVOLVED IN TRAINING SOMALI MILITARY FORCES, BOTH IN CUBA AND IN SOMALIA. IN ADDITION, CUBA HAS SENT MEDICAL AND EDUCATIONAL TEAMS

AND SUGAR EXPERTS TO WORK IN SOMALIA. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUBANS--MILITARY AND CIVILIAN--PRESENTLY IN SOMALIA IS UNCERTAIN, BUT IS PROBABLY BETWEEN 100-250.

F. SPANISH SAHARA:

CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN REPORTED TRAINING THE ALGERIAN-BACKED FRONT POLISARIO INDEPENDENCE MOVEMENT, AND SOME MAY HAVE TAKEN PART IN COMBAT OPERATIONS. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF CUBANS ENGAGED IN THIS ACTIVITY IS PROBABLY LESS THAN 200.

G. TANZANIA:

THERE WERE PERHAPS AS MANY AS 350 CUBANS IN TANZANIA IN LATE 1975, ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS. THEY WERE OCCUPIED IN CONSTRUCTION OF AGRICULTURAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS, A SUGAR FACTORY, AND VARIOUS MEDICAL FACILITIES. THERE IS NO DIRECT EVIDENCE TO INDICATE THAT ANY CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL ARE PRESENT IN THE COUNTRY.

H. ZAMBIA:

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CUBA HAS INITIATED A NON-MILITARY TECHNICAL AID PROGRAM IN ZAMBIA TO INCLUDE EDUCATIONAL, TECHNICAL, AND AGRICULTURAL SPECIALISTS. IT IS UNCERTAIN WHETHER CUBANS ARE PRESENTLY TRAINING ZAMBIAN PARA-MILITARY GROUPS. THE CUBANS ARE REPORTEDLY GIVING PARTICULAR EMPHASIS TO DEVELOPING THE SUGAR INDUSTRY. THERE ARE NOW BELIEVED TO BE ABOUT 50 CUBANS IN ZAMBIA. KISSINGER

NOTE BY OC/T: DISSEMINATION COORDINATED WITH S/S-O, MR. MACFARLANE, 3/3/76.

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